

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (Original) An ink for ink jet recording containing an aqueous dispersion of a microencapsulated pigment in which pigment particles are encapsulated with a polymer, wherein the above-mentioned microencapsulated pigment is formed by adding a polymerizable surfactant having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization, and wherein the above-mentioned aqueous dispersion has been subjected to purification treatment, and the concentration of unreacted polymerizable surfactant after the above-mentioned purification treatment is 50000 ppm or less based on the aqueous component in the above-mentioned aqueous dispersion.

16. (Currently Amended) An ink for ink jet recording containing an aqueous dispersion of a microencapsulated pigment in which pigment particles are encapsulated with a polymer, wherein the above-mentioned microencapsulated pigment is formed by adding a ~~polymeri-zable~~ polymerizable surfactant having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a comonomer copolymerizable with the above-mentioned polymerizable surfactant, a ~~poly-merization~~ polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization, and wherein the above-mentioned aqueous dispersion has been subjected to purification treatment, and the total concentration of unreacted polymerizable surfactant and comonomer after the above-mentioned purification treatment is 50000 ppm or less based on the aqueous component in the above-mentioned aqueous dispersion.

Claims 17 - 39 (canceled).

40. (New) An ink for ink jet recording comprising an aqueous dispersion containing a microencapsulated pigment produced by a process which comprises adding a polymerizable surfactant having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization to encapsulate pigment particles with a polymer.

41. (New) The ink according to claim 40, wherein the microencapsulated pigment has an aspect ratio of 1.0 to 1.3, and a Zingg index of 1.0 to 1.3.

42. (New) The ink according to claim 40, comprising a water-soluble organic solvent containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glycerol, an alkyl ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a 1,2-alkyldiol.

43. (New) The ink according to claim 40, further comprising a solid wetting agent in an amount of 3% to 20% by weight based on a total weight of the ink.

44. (New) The ink according to claim 43, wherein the solid wetting agent comprises trimethylolpropane, 1,2,6-hexanetriol or both.

45. (New) The ink according to claim 40 further comprising a saccharide.

46. (New) The ink according to claim 40, wherein the wet pigment to which the polymerizable surfactant, polymerization initiator and aqueous medium is added contains water in an amount of 40 to 80% by weight.

47. (New) The ink according to claim 40, wherein the microencapsulated pigment comprises particles having an average particle size of 150 nm or less as measured by a laser light scattering process.
48. (New) An ink for ink jet recording comprising an aqueous dispersion containing a microencapsulated pigment produced by a process comprising adding a polymerizable surfactant having a hydrophilic group, a hydrophobic group and a polymerizable group, a comonomer copolymerizable with the polymerizable surfactant, a polymerization initiator and an aqueous medium to a wet pigment, and conducting emulsion polymerization to encapsulate pigment particles with a copolymer.
49. (New) The ink according to claim 48, wherein the microencapsulated pigment has an aspect ratio of 1.0 to 1.3, and a Zingg index of 1.0 to 1.3.
50. (New) The ink according to claim 48, comprising a water-soluble organic solvent containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glycerol, an alkyl ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a 1,2-alkyldiol.
51. (New) The ink according to claim 48, further comprising a solid wetting agent in an amount of 3% to 20% by weight based on a total weight of the ink.
52. (New) The ink according to claim 51, wherein the solid wetting agent comprises trimethylolpropane, 1,2,6-hexanetriol or both.
53. (New) The ink according to claim 48 further comprising a saccharide.
54. (New) The ink according to claim 48, wherein the wet pigment to which the

polymerizable surfactant, comonomer, polymerization initiator and aqueous medium is added contains water in an amount of 40 to 80% by weight.

55. (New) The ink according to claim 48, wherein the microencapsulated pigment comprises particles having an average particle size of 150 nm or less as measured by a laser light scattering process.

56. (New) The ink according to claim 15, comprising a water-soluble organic solvent containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glycerol, an alkyl ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a 1,2-alkyldiol.

57. (New) The ink according to claim 15, further comprising a solid wetting agent in an amount of 3% to 20% by weight based on a total weight of the ink.

58. (New) The ink according to claim 57, wherein the solid wetting agent comprises trimethylolpropane, 1,2,6-hexanetriol or both.

59. (New) The ink according to claim 15 further comprising a saccharide.

60. (New) The ink according to claim 15, wherein the wet pigment to which the polymerizable surfactant, polymerization initiator and aqueous medium is added contains water in an amount of 40 to 80% by weight.

61. (New) The ink according to claim 15, wherein the microencapsulated pigment comprises particles having an average particle size of 150 nm or less as measured by a laser light scattering process.

62. (New) The ink according to claim 16, comprising a water-soluble organic solvent containing at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glycerol, an alkyl ether of a polyhydric alcohol and a 1,2-alkyldiol.
63. (New) The ink according to claim 16, further comprising a solid wetting agent in an amount of 3% to 20% by weight based on a total weight of the ink.
64. (New) The ink according to claim 63, wherein the solid wetting agent comprises trimethylolpropane, 1,2,6-hexanetriol or both.
65. (New) The ink according to claim 16 further comprising a saccharide.
66. (New) The ink according to claim 16, wherein the wet pigment to which the polymerizable surfactant, comonomer, polymerization initiator and aqueous medium is added contains water in an amount of 40 to 80% by weight.
67. (New) The ink according to claim 16, wherein the microencapsulated pigment comprises particles having an average particle size of 150 nm or less as measured by a laser light scattering process.